

By-Cycle

Bicycle News from the
Maricopa County Department of Transportation



May 2001

Volume 2:5

Bicycling can cut 3,764 Tons of CO₂ Emissions in a community the size of Yuma

In its annual proclamation of May as National Bike Month, the League of American Bicyclists announced new findings indicating strong environmental benefits from increasing the number of trips made by bike. If each resident of an American community of 100,000 replaced a car trip with a bike trip just once a month, it would cut carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 3,764 tons of per year in the community, in metropolitan areas like Altoona, PA, Iowa City, IA, and Yuma, AZ.

The League's analysis of the potential for CO₂ emission reductions from an increase in bicycling in metropolitan areas is based on data from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, and the Federal Highways Administration's National Personal Transportation Survey. Some 20 pounds of CO₂ are emitted per gallon of gasoline used for driving a motor vehicle, according to the EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality.

For details on the calculations, contact bikeleague@bikeleague.org.

Beyond its enormous potential for reducing air pollution, bicycling has a wide range of benefits for both the individual cyclist and the community at large, including saving money and time, reducing traffic, and improving health and fitness. Biking to work instead of driving can save a small fortune in gasoline. According to the

Meetings

May 2001

Public Meeting Schedule

The public meeting schedule is subject to change. Please call to confirm dates and times. For on-line information go to: <http://www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/CgrComm/pubmtgs/present.htm>

5.08.2001

MCDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee

Location: Maricopa County Department of Transportation, Maricopa Room
2901 W Durango St.
Phoenix, AZ
Reed Kempton: 602-506-1630
Time: 2:30 p.m.

New York Times, AAA now predicts that consumers in many areas will have to pay more than \$2 a gallon this summer, which may mean a \$20 billion increase in the \$125 billion Americans already spend per year on fuel.

Bicycling is an ideal solution to the need for moderate physical activity. A 130-pound cyclist burns 402 calories while pedaling 14 miles in an hour. A 180-pound cyclist burns 540 calories while pedaling 14 miles in an hour.

If each resident of Maricopa County replaced a car trip with a bike trip just once a month, it would cut CO₂ emissions by **115,635 tons** each year.

MCDOT Bicycle Web Page

www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/Bicycle/



Bike, Bus, Carpool your way to Bluer Skies

2001 Summer Ozone Update

by Ira Domskey, Deputy Director ADEZ Air Quality Division

Despite the incredible amount of growth in the Phoenix metro area, we have, for four years in a row, gone without any exceedances of the one-hour ozone standard. While this is good news, we are not out of the woods. Consider the following:

- **Every hot, dry day** during the ozone season, the potential for an exceedance of the ozone standard exists.
- **The National Weather Service** long-range forecast this summer is for temperatures to be above normal.
- **The Supreme Court** recently upheld EPA's 8-hour ozone standard, which has been violated regularly at several locations throughout the Valley. Even though we continue to be in compliance with the one-hour ozone standard, ozone concentrations do reach unhealthful levels relative to the 8-hour ozone standard.

The point is, we have to remain vigilant, and continue to reduce driving, refuel in the evening, use electric rather than gasoline powered equipment when possible, and take other actions that reduce the amount of ozone forming pollutants that we generate. ADEQ will be forecasting pollution conditions and we ask for your cooperation

when an ozone alert is called. You will be contributing to both the physical and economic health of our community.

For information on how you can join in the **Blue is in This Summer Contest**, go to www.valleymetro.maricopa.gov. Weekly prizes will be announced every **Blue** Wednesday. The grand **blue** prize is a 3-day cruise for two to Mexico.



Ed. – My new blue bike, pictured below, will help me contribute to bluer skies all summer. I invite you to join me and the 45,000 other Maricopa County bicycle commuters.



Corridor Plan Nears Completion

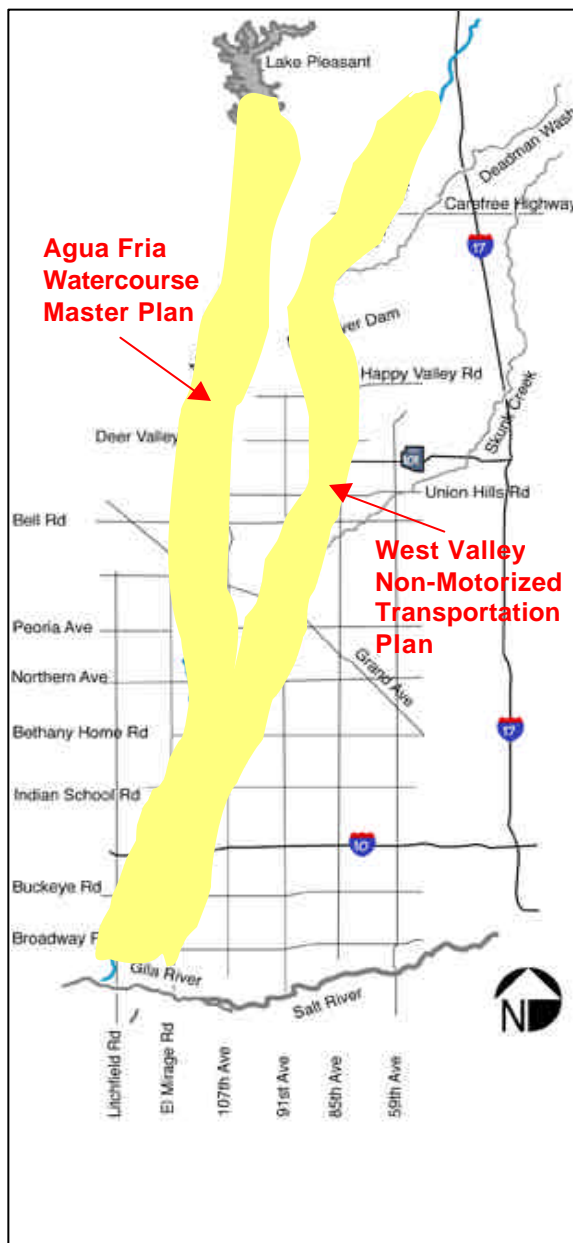
The West Valley Recreation Corridor has two concurrent studies that are nearing completion. The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) has been working on the West Valley Multi-Modal Transportation Corridor Plan along the New River and Lower Agua Fria. The Flood Control District of Maricopa County (FCDMC) is preparing the Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan. The plans will provide a template for turning the rivers into a non-motorized transportation and recreation corridor while protecting the public from 100-year floods and the banks from erosion. For details go to <http://www.agua-fria.org>

Traffic Cameras can Reduce Crash Numbers

Results of a study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety show that surveillance cameras can significantly lower the number of vehicle crashes at intersections. The Arlington, Va.-based organization, which advocates the use of



This gentleman was Arizona's first bicycle/pedestrian planner.



cameras at red light intersections, examined crash statistics in Oxnard, Calif.

Since 1997, when Oxnard first installed traffic cameras, injury crashes at intersections with traffic signals dropped 29 percent. Front-into-side crashes fell 32 percent, and front-into-side crashes involving injuries dropped 68 percent.

For more information about intersection surveillance and the Oxnard results, visit IIHS's Web site at <http://www.hwysafety.org>.

Ed.- Logic would suggest that if we can reduce car/car crashes, a corresponding reduction in car/bike and car/pedestrian crashes would follow.